

Serial No. 09/722,991

Amendment dated May 5, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 15, 2004

Remarks

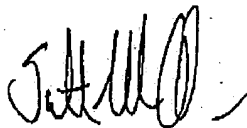
Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 28 were pending in this case. Claims 9-17 were previously withdrawn from consideration, but are now cancelled. The previously presented claim amendments are not occasioned by the prior art, rather they are made to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Previously claim 1 and 22 include limitations of previously objected dependent claims that have been rewritten in independent form that include all of the limitations of the base claim and the other intervening claims.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner has stated that this application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 9-17 to an invention non-elected with traverse in Paper No. 20030312. In response to this Action, the Applicant elects to cancel claims 9-17 which meets the requirement for placing the application in a condition for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing, it is believed that the present invention as now claimed clearly distinguishes from the prior art, and favorable action hereon is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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